



NEWS RELEASE

*Office of the
United States Attorney
for the
District of Nebraska*
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April 26, 2010

United States Attorney Deborah R. Gilg and the United States Postal Inspection Service announce the following information for the attention of the media:

Event Triggering this Release:

Bryan S. Behrens appeared today before the Honorable Senior United States District Judge Lyle E. Strom and entered a plea of guilty to Count I of the Indictment charging a violation of Securities Fraud involving a Ponzi scheme that he conducted while an Investment Advisor with 21st Century Financial Group in Omaha, Nebraska from 2002 through 2007.

According to the indictment, the purpose of the scheme was for Mr. Behrens to unjustly enrich himself by misappropriating monies from various client investors for his own business and personal use by means of material false and fraudulent representations, and by concealment of material facts concerning, among other things, the non-existent nature of the investments, the safety and security of the investments and the anticipated return on the investments. As a result of the scheme to defraud, approximately 25 victims suffered a loss of approximately \$8,200,000.

The scheme worked as follows: Bryan S. Behrens approached potential investors and induced them to entrust their monies to him for the purported use of investing in National Investments, a company that Mr. Behrens purportedly set up to purchase real estate in the State of Nevada. Behrens promised his client investors a fixed return of seven to nine percent to be paid on this real estate investment.

In truth and in fact, the Defendant did not invest the investors' funds in any Nevada real estate or any safe or no-risk investment, but instead, (a) diverted substantial amounts of victim investors' funds to financially prop up and support his other fledgling business interests and entities; (b) used later victim investors' funds to pay money owed to early investors (Ponzi scheme) and (c) misappropriated victim investors' funds to pay for his and his family's personal expenses and support a lavish life style. This lavish lifestyle included, but was not limited to, (a) the purchase of a second home; (b) upgrades and renovations of two homes; (c) the purchase/ lease of several luxury automobiles and jewelry and (d) the purchase of a "Husker" bus that was used to transport friends and family to tailgating parties at University of Nebraska home football games. Sentencing is set for July 16, 2010.

Name of Defendant: Bryan S. Behrens

AKA:

Age: 47

City of Residence: Honey Creek, Iowa

Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty): Securities Fraud (Imprisonment of up to 20 years, a fine of up to \$1,000,000, both such fine and imprisonment, a term of supervised release of not more than 5 years, and a \$100 special assessment)

Specific Location of Alleged Crime: Omaha

Location of Arrest:

Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug: \$8,200,000

Others Charged in Same Scheme: N/A

Relevant Dates:

Date of Alleged Crime: Beginning on or about January 1, 2002, and continuing until on or about December 31, 2007.

Federal Arrest Date:

Date Complaint Issued: N/A

Indictment Returned Date: 04/22/09

Initial Appearance Date: 05/13/09

Plea Date(s): 04/26/10

Sentencing Date: 07/16/10

Next Court Hearing Type and Date: Sentencing

Assigned Magistrate Judge: Thomas D. Thalken

Held without Bond: N/A

In Continuous Custody Since: N/A

Assigned District Court Judge: Lyle E. Strom

Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release: RXM